

children. Science has also made great strides in understanding this disorder. We now know that autism is a biological condition, it is not an emotional problem and it is not caused by faulty parenting. Scientists believe that autism is one of the most heritable developmental disorders and is the most likely to benefit from the latest advances in genetics and neurology. Once the genetic link is discovered, the opportunities for understanding, treating, and eventually curing autism are endless.

The promise of research is exactly why I am introducing this legislation and my colleague Representative JIM GREENWOOD has introduced similar legislation in the House. This bill will increase the federal commitment to autism research. Its cornerstone is authorization for five Centers of Excellence where basic researchers, clinicians and scientists can come together to increase our understanding of this devastating disorder.

I also want to encourage the collaboration beginning to take place between the various Institutes at the HHV conducting autism research. The bill formalizes the current autism coordinating committee and includes a mechanism to ensure public input.

While we are hoping to advance our understanding and treatment of autism through research, it is also important that pediatricians and other health professionals have the most current information so that children and their families can receive help as early as possible. The bill includes authorization for an Autism Awareness Program to educate doctors and other health professionals about autism.

Finally, the bill includes a provision to fund a gene and brain tissue bank developed from families affected with autism to be available for research purposes. This library of genetic information should be a valuable tool for researchers trying to identify the genetic basis for the disorder.

While the focus of this bill is on autism, advances in this area are also likely to shed light on related problems such as attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, and various seizure disorders and learning disabilities.

Research is the key to unlocking the door and freeing those with autism from the isolation and loneliness of their private world. This bill is intended to give the NIH the resources to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity before us to find more effective treatments and ultimately a cure for autism. The promise is real. Fulfillment of that promise only requires our commitment. I urge my Senate colleagues to support this important investment in the future of our children and our Nation.●

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2264. A bill to revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, relat-

ed to patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organizations, as title 36, United States Code, "Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PATRIOTIC AND NATIONAL OBSERVANCES, CEREMONIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS CODIFICATION ACT

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce today the Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations Codification Act.

This legislation will codify as title 36, United States Code, certain general and permanent laws related to various Federally chartered patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organizations. Without making substantive changes, this bill restates existing law to remove ambiguities and inconsistencies and repeals obsolete, unnecessary, and superseded provisions.

Some of the important organizations whose charters will be codified with this legislation include, among others: The American Legion, The American Society of International Law, Army and Navy Union of the United States of America, Boy Scouts of America, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States of America, Girl Scouts of the United States of America, Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, Incorporated, Little League Baseball, Incorporated, National Academy of Sciences, National Fund for Medical Education, United States Olympic Committee, The American National Red Cross.

The bill was drafted by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel under the Office's statutory mandate to prepare and submit periodically to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, one title at a time, a restatement and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States for enactment into positive law (2 U.S.C. 285b).●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 623

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 623, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippines Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army to close the United States Army School of the Americas.

S. 1220

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1220, a bill to provide a process for declassifying on an expedited basis certain documents relating to human rights abuses in Guatemala and Honduras.

S. 1423

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1423, a bill to modernize and improve the Federal Home Loan Bank System.

S. 1529

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1529, a bill to enhance Federal enforcement of hate crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 1859

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1859, a bill to correct the tariff classification of 13" televisions.

S. 1903

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1903, a bill to prohibit the return of veterans memorial objects to foreign nations without specific authorization in law.

S. 1970

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance in the conservation of neotropical migratory birds.

S. 1976

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1976, a bill to increase public awareness of the plight of victims of crime with developmental disabilities, to collect data to measure the magnitude of the problem, and to develop strategies to address the safety and justice needs of victims of crime with developmental disabilities.

S. 1981

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1981, a bill to preserve the balance of rights between employers, employees, and labor organizations which is fundamental to our system of collective bargaining while preserving the rights of workers to organize, or otherwise engage in concerted activities protected under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2022

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to provide for the improvement of interstate criminal justice identification, information, communications, and forensics.

S. 2112

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2112, a bill to make the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 applicable to the United States Postal Service in the same manner as any other employer.

S. 2128

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2128, a bill to clarify the authority of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding the collection of fees to process certain identification records and name checks, and for other purposes.

S. 2130

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2130, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional retirement savings opportunities for small employers, including self-employed individuals.

S. 2185

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2185, a bill to protect children from firearms violence.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2201, a bill to delay the effective date of the final rule promulgated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 50

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 50, a joint resolution to disapprove the rule submitted by the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services on June 1, 1998, relating to surety bond requirements for home health agencies under the medicare and medicaid programs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 95

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 95, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to promoting coverage of individuals under long-term care insurance.

AMENDMENT NO. 2241

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2241 proposed to S. Con. Res. 86, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 and revising the con-

current resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

AMENDMENT NO. 2907

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2907 proposed to S. 2057, an original bill to authorize appropriations for the fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

BOND (AND MIKULSKI)
AMENDMENTS NOS. 3056-3057

Mr. BOND. (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) proposed two amendments to the bill (S. 2168) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes; as follows:

AMENDMENT No. 3056

On page 73, line 11, strike "\$231,000,000" and insert "\$239,000,000, including \$11,000,000 for assisting state and local governments in preparing for and responding to terrorist incidents".

On page 42, line 14, strike "\$1,000,826,000" and insert "\$92,826,000".

AMENDMENT No. 3057

On page 16, line 20, insert the following:
"SEC. 110. LAND CONVEYANCE, RIDGECREST CHILDREN'S CENTER, ALABAMA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may convey, without consideration, to the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, described in subsection (b).

(b) COVERED PARCEL.—The parcel of real property to be conveyed under subsection (a) is the following: A parcel of property lying in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, section 28, township 21 south, range 9 west, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, lying along and adjacent to Ridgcrest (Brewer's Porch) Children's Center being more particularly described as follows: As a point of commencement start at the southeast corner of the north half of the southwest quarter run in an easterly direction along an easterly projection of the north boundary of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter for a distance of 888.52 feet to a point; thence with a deflection angle to the left of 134 degrees 41 minutes run in a northwesterly direction for a distance of 1164.38 feet to an iron pipe; thence with a deflection angle to the left of 75 degrees 03 minutes run in an southwesterly direction for a distance of

37.13 feet to the point of beginning of this parcel of property; thence continue in this same southwesterly direction along the projection of the chain link fence for a distance of 169.68 feet to a point; thence with an interior angle to the left of 63 degrees 16 minutes run in a northerly direction for a distance of 233.70 feet to a point; thence with an interior angle to the left of 43 degrees 55 minutes run in a southeasterly direction for a distance of 218.48 feet to the point of beginning, said parcel having an interior angle of closure of 72 degrees 49 minutes, said parcel containing 0.40 acres more or less, said parcel of property is also subject to all rights-of-way, easements, and conveyances heretofore given for this parcel of property.

(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States."

On page 55, after line 13, insert the following new sections and designate, accordingly:

"SEC. . TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998.

(a) SECTION 8 CONTRACT RENEWAL POLICY FOR FY 1999 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—Section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting after "Notwithstanding paragraph (1)" the following "and subject to section 516 of this subtitle"; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following new subsections:

"(b) INAPPLICABILITY TO PROJECTS SUBJECT TO RESTRUCTURING.—This section shall not apply to projects restructured under this subtitle.

"(c) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Upon the repeal of this subtitle pursuant to section 579, the provisions of sections 512(2) and 516 (as in effect immediately before such repeal) shall apply with respect to this section."

(b) REPEAL OF CONTRACT RENEWAL AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 405(a).—Section 405(a) of The Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, I is hereby repealed.

(c) EXEMPTIONS FROM RESTRUCTURING.—(1) Section 514(h)(1) of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, is amended to read as follows:

(1) the primary financing for the project was provided by a unit of State government or a unit of general local government (or an agency or instrumentality of either) and the primary financing involves mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act, such that implementation of a mortgage restructuring and rental assistance sufficiency plan under this Act would be in conflict with applicable law or agreements governing such financing;"

(2) Section 524(a)(2)(B) is amended by striking "and financing" and inserting "and the primary financing".

(d) MANDATORY RENEWAL OF PROJECT-BASED ASSISTANCE.—Section 515(c)(1) is amended by inserting "or" after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (B).

(e) PARTIAL PAYMENTS OF CLAIMS.—Section 514 of the National Housing Act is amended by—

(1) by striking "1978 or" and inserting "1978) or"; and

(2) by striking ")))" and inserting ")))".

On page 56, line 17, after the word "That" insert ", of the funds made available under this heading."

On page 69, line 15, following the last proviso and prior to the period, insert the following: